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LOFTUS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND THE
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

REPORT
for the Year 1955

of the Medical Officer of Health
W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,
D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,
SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MADAM CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my ninth Annual Report for the year 1955, the contents and arrangements of which are in accordance with Circular 17 55 of the Ministry of Health.

I would like at the outset to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year and to all who have contributed to the smooth conduct of affairs.

The problems of the public health have changed greatly in the last thirty years. Infectious diseases including Tuberculosis, have decreased greatly, both in number and severity. More and better food, more humane hours of labour, particularly important for younger persons, greater consideration for individuals as human beings and not as mere "hands", have all played their part in maintaining health and raising the power to resist infection; I believe that the increasing variety of protective substances which can be injected into the individual are also helping to create and maintain the resistance against the particular disease for which each is used. But new problems are arising. There is that of the old people which Preventive Medicine has itself created by prolonging people's lives. The best solution is not to allow them to believe themselves old by employing them as fully and for as many years as possible, for the human body that is not employed deteriorates quickly, like an unused machine. Pensioners who could be employed are like cars deteriorating in a garage, except that they are not heading for the scrap-heap where some useful metal could be recovered, but before their time are likely to require the services of a Domestic Help and then to become candidates for scarce and costly institutional care, again before their time.

Then there are the diseases that affect the body though they are linked with the mind; coronary thrombosis, high blood pressure, peptic ulcers, some forms of rheumatism are instances of these. Why do so many people need tranquillisers to soothe their nerves, to give them peace by day and sleep by night? The family doctors prescribe quantities of barbiturates, tobacconists sell countless millions of cigarettes; it is true that alcohol is not being drunk in increasing quantities but the reason for that is simple—it is just too dear.

Yet some of the old problems remain. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, are in my hands. Their effective enforcement will involve many visits and constant supervision, the spade work of which falls on your Sanitary Inspector. I do not suppose, for a moment that Loftus is better or worse in food handling than any other part of Britain, but it is my considered opinion that the standard of cleanliness regarding our foods tolerated by the customer is deplorably low everywhere.

Then there is slum clearance, another time consuming duty for it has been estimated if I recall correctly, by the Manchester Corporation, that one house to be properly inspected for the purposes of Slum Clearance together with the necessary report takes a Sanitary Inspector on the average one and a half working days.

Finally there are the dwellings repairable at reasonable cost, defective roofs, dampness rising penetrating or descending, rotten woodwork, appearing in my experience the common defects. Without systematic inspections these defects unfortunately not only accumulate, but grow progressively bigger and bigger like a spreading flood. The amount of work done in connection with Housing is given in Table 10 and that regarding nuisances in Table 11.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

District Health Office.

Park Lane,

Guisborough.

14th July, 1956.

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1

Public Health Officers

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health who is also Asst. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C.	Dr. W. H. Butcher		
Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. A. T. Pallister*	Mr. J. J. Pattison	Mr. W. C. Ranson*
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. E. Ward		commenced duty 21/2/55

*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

SECTION I

Vital Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1955 is 7,700, as compared with one of 7,670 for the mid-year 1954.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

1. Area of the District in acres	9,974
2. No. of inhabited houses	2,625
3. Rateable Value	£32,862
4. Sum represented by a penny rate	£128

The District consists of the neat town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinningrove and of part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. Gentle wooded ravines, the grills of the Danish settlers, intersect rolling uplands studded with farms that reach northwards to the height of 699 feet at Boulby, or Rockeliff, the highest headland in England and Wales; southwards the fields merge with the moors at a height of nigh on 1,000 feet. The principal industries today are the great Skinningrove Iron and Steel Works, and Agriculture. The Alum workings on Rockeliff, to which once Loftus owed its prosperity, ceased to be operated in 1868; and now of the ironstone mines only one is worked; while inshore fishing has practically ceased as a means of livelihood.

TABLE 2—Vital Statistics—CAUSES OF DEATH

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningo-coccal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic Diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	4	4
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	5
Leukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	10
Coronary disease, angina	8	7
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3
Other heart diseases	9	19
Other circulatory diseases	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	1	5
Bronchitis	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—

TABLE 2—Vital Statistics—continued

Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	..	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	..	—	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	....	4	1
Motor Vehicle accidents	....	—	—
All other accidents	....	4	2
Suicide	....	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	....	—	—
ALL CAUSES	....	54	61

Deaths

The deaths are classified under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948. 115 deaths of residents gave a death-rate of 15 per thousand of population; allowing for different age and sex distribution the comparable death-rate is 15.9 compared to 11.7 for England and Wales. Table 2 shows clearly what killed people in Loftus in 1955.

TABLE 3
Vital Statistics

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	74	62	136
Legitimate	69	59	128
Illegitimate	5	3	8
Still Births	—	1	3
Legitimate	—	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	MALE	FEMALE
Total	2	2
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—

Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 136, giving a birth-rate of 17.6 per thousand of the population, or a corrected one of 17.8 as compared with 15.0 for England and Wales. Four infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 29.9 per thousand live births compared with one of 24.9 for England and Wales. Two of the infants who died were under four weeks of age.

SECTION II
Infectious Diseases

Table 4 shows that the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases as notified except tuberculosis. I observe that 6 people died of pneumonia, but not one was notified to me during life.

TABLE 4
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1955
(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	16	1	2	2	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and none of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year.

TABLE 5
Tuberculosis

AGE GROUPS Years	RESPIRATORY FORM		NON-RESPIRATORY FORM	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 4	—	—	—	—
5 to 9	—	—	—	—
10 to 14	—	—	—	—
15 to 19	—	—	—	—
20 to 24	—	—	—	—
25 to 44	—	1	—	—
45 to 54	1	—	—	—
55 to 64	—	—	—	—
65 to 74	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	—

There was no death from this cause.

TABLE 6
Immunizations against Diphtheria or Whooping Cough and Diphtheria

	AGE GROUPS			
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	TOTAL
Completed Immunizations	70	24	16	110
Reinforcing Doses	—	3	7	10

Immunization was available to children at the hands of the family doctor, or at the school clinic of the Education Authority at Carlin How, and at the infant welfare centres of the Local Health Authority at Carlin How, Skinningrove and Loftus. Reinforcing doses were given at the schools by myself to children who had been immunized earlier in life

Regarding protection against smallpox, 33 persons received primary vaccinations and none were revaccinated.

SECTION III

The General Provision of Health Services in the District

1. Laboratory Facilities.

This work is now done entirely at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

2. National Health Service Act, 1946.

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee meets once a month in rotation at Guisborough, Skelton and Loftus. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following:—

- Domestic Help Service.
- Prevention of illness: Care and After Care.
- Ambulance Service.
- Vaccination and Immunization.
- Home Nursing.
- Health Visiting.
- Midwifery.
- Care of Mothers and Young Children.

3. Guisborough Area Voluntary Care Committee.

I would like to record the useful work done by this Body for the welfare of persons suffering from tuberculosis and other illnesses. Whereas in connection with the welfare of the tuberculous the Committee has certain funds allocated to it, for the welfare of other sufferers it depends entirely on voluntary contributions. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Honorary Secretary, District Health Office, Guisborough (Telephone: Guisborough 321).

4. National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951—Section 47.

During the year I managed to avoid advising the Local Sanitary Authorities to have recourse to the procedure laid down in these Acts. Getting the aged sick into hospital is becoming, in my experience, an increasingly difficult and lengthy procedure. I am not referring to the chronic sick but to the aged persons who, owing to the onset of an acute condition superimposed on old age or chronic illness, or to the worsening of a chronic disease so that it has become acute, are no longer fit to remain at home, because the services of the Home Nurse and of the Domestic Help, even if relatives are available to help (many of these old persons are alone) cannot be regarded as proper care and attention.

SECTION IV. Water Supplies **Cleveland Water Company**

During the year 16 samples of water supplied to consumers within the district were taken by me; all were found to be of a satisfactory bacteriological purity.

TABLE 7—Miscellaneous Waters—Bacteriological Results

Source	Date 1955	No. of Colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37° C. in 2 days	Presumptive coliform reaction from 100 ml.	Bact. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.	Classifi- cation
5 Council Houses Liverton	Jan 10	8	1	absent	Class 1
18 Cleveland St., Liverton Mines	Jan. 10	6	1	absent	Class 1
Boulby Cottages	June 29	87	180	20	Class 4
Spout, Market Place	Oct. 25	0	less than 1	absent	
Loftus ditto	Nov. 8	0	25	absent	

The sample from Boulby Cottages is a particularly nasty beverage—in fact a weak sewage effluent even in dry weather; after heavy rain it looks like watered ink. Previous analyses have shown that the spout in the Market Place produces a polluted water, but as the result of a dry season one of the two samples above is satisfactory; but in water examinations the saying that one swallow does not make a summer is very true.

Since 1948 I myself have taken samples of many of the diverse supplies that still exist in the district. The results are found in my Annual Health Reports and present a fairly complete picture of the water supplies, although I do not claim that by any means they cover every small supply. They provide evidence that enables the Local Sanitary Authority to decide what localities require a pure supply. Here I will repeat that the following supplies are unsatisfactory in quality.

1. Liverton.
2. Downe Estates supply to Liverton Mines.
3. Zetland Estates supply to Loftus and South Loftus.
4. Zetland Estates supply to Street Houses.
5. The supply to Boulby.
6. The supply to Grinkle.
7. The supply to Foulsyke.

Some of these supplies at times are deficient in quantity. Those at Easington appear of satisfactory purity but in dry summers there is not enough water.

Of the 2,625 houses, 1980 are supplied into the dwellings from the mains of the Cleveland Water Company, the statutory water undertaking of the remaining 645 houses I give the following approximate figures: 324 are supplied into the dwellings from the mains of the Zetland Estates (South Loftus), of the Downe Estates (Liverton Mines) and of the Whitby Rural District Council, while 301 are supplied from standpipes or from wells, streams and various small supplies.

The usual shortages occurred at Street Houses and also there were some at Liverton Mines due to insufficient pressure. The latter is receiving attention.

SECTION V.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk

The following samples of milk were taken by me and submitted to the necessary chemical and bacteriological examinations. The results are shown below :—

TABLE 8

Type of Milk	No. of Samples	Passed statutory tests for cleanliness	Failed the same	Biological test shows infection with tuberculosis	Brucellus Abortus found
Tuberculin Tested	19	13	6	0	0

I cannot write that 30 per cent of failures is satisfactory, and I have told those concerned accordingly.

In November one producer-retailer mentioned to me that in the summer customers had complained of a fishy taint in the milk. While the taint is in itself entirely harmless, it is of some scientific interest and naturally may be of some commercial importance to the producer. It only occurs in the presence of bright sunlight, of which fortunately there was plenty in the summer of 1955, and is due to a complicated chemical reaction in the presence of sunlight between the materials generally of the cooler and the milk. The producer was informed of my conclusions. I have to thank Mr. G. D. Aspin, the Chief County Health Inspector for his advice in this matter.

Bakehouses

There are two bakehouses used in the district. Three inspections of these were carried out.

Fish Frying

There are ten fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on ten occasions.

Ice Cream

There are twenty-one premises registered for the sale of this foodstuff; none is manufactured in the district.

Food Poisoning.

No outbreaks of food poisoning were notified to me during the year.

Byelaws

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Practices and Conditions in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

No action was necessary under the above during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION

There are three slaughterhouses licensed by the Council for regular slaughtering by local butchers. A considerable amount of extra work, including some early morning work or evening work, has to be done on meat inspection by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. C. Ranson. Some ninety-two visits were made to slaughterhouses for meat inspections and 885 cwt. of meat was condemned as being diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption. All the meat was surrendered voluntarily.

TABLE 9
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	not	known	not	known		none
Number inspected	54	8	—	12	115	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	12.9%	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.4%	—	—	—	1.7%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION VI – Housing

I give below the figures of the housing inspections.

TABLE 10

Housing Statistics

<i>Number of new houses completed in 1955</i>		
(a) By Private Owners		0
(b) By the Council		42
1. <i>Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year</i>		
(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		58
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		77
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		0
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		1
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reason- ably fit for human habitation		41
2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices</i>		
(1) Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit or repaired in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers		28
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i>		
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices		
(a) By Owners		0
(b) By local authority in default of owners		0
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		0

Table 10—Housing Statistics---continued

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	....	0
(a) By Owners	....	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	0
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	0
D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936, Housing Act, 1949 (3), or Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 (10, 11)		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	....	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	0
4. <i>Housing Act, 1936, Part 4, Overcrowding</i>		
No accurate figures are available.		
5. <i>Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954</i>		
(1) (a) Number of Improvement Grants made	....	0
(b) Number of Improvement Grants refused	....	0
(2) (a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted (including 2 in 1954)	0	
(b) Number of Certificates of Disrepair revoked	...	0

SECTION VII

I give below a table of the inspections for nuisances carried out during the year by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. C. Ranson.

TABLE 11
Nuisances

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only	...	158
Nuisances found	....	49
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	.	3
		<hr/>
Total needing abatement		52
Abated during the year		43
		<hr/>
Outstanding at end of year	..	9
		<hr/>
Notices served, informal	49	Complied with 43
Notices served, statutory	0	Complied with 0
Number of summonses or other legal proceedings		0

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings, knackers' yards or tents, vans and sheds in the district.

Byelaws in force in the District

Building Byelaws, 21st August, 1953.

Closet Accommodation

There are 92 privies with fixed receptacles and 286 pail closets in the district. In addition there are 3,019 water closets. Eleven pail closets and three privies were reconstructed as W.C's. Sixty water closets were constructed for new houses.

Scavenging

Public scavenging is in operation throughout the district. The refuse is disposed of by means of tipping; the tip is not maintained according to the methods of controlled tipping.

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13

Twenty-two visits were paid under the above section. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in two instances and remedied.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There is no sewage disposal works in the district, the sewage being discharged into the sea. The sewerage scheme for Cowbar has been commenced. With the growth of outlying communities such as Easington and Liverton the disposal of sewage will, I am convinced, present difficulties. It must be borne in mind that the water courses that drain these localities are small and in rainless periods insignificant or as in 1949 at Easington dry, except for sewage. With any sewage works whether the largest under hourly supervision or one from a single dwelling, which after installation is usually forgotten, there should be at least a 1 in 8 dilution of the effluent with stream water.

SECTION VIII : Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the district.

TABLE 12

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	19	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1 (Building Sites)	17	—	—
TOTAL	24	36	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	8	8	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	0	0
TOTALS	9	9	0	0

SKINNINGROVE IRON AND STEEL CO. LTD.

Complaints were again received during the autumn concerning the discharge of grit or dust. I reported as follow to the Health Committee on 28th October.

(1) **Emission of Grit**

When the new blast furnace began to work some two or three years ago, black metallic grit was deposited in the play-yard of Skinningrove Senior School. It had to be swept up daily. After some months I neither heard nor saw more of this deposit; on my visits the Headmaster had always assured me that the grit, though present from time to time, was less in amount. Now the emission of the grit has started again; on the 13th October, 1955, I saw a lot of it in the play-yard; one witness was quite definite that it had started to fall after the summer closure of the Works; another witness, however, said that it had begun earlier in the year. I was first told about it in the middle of August. Naturally its deposit in any part of the neighbourhood depends on the direction of the wind; the wind no doubt accounts in large measure for the different stories that I get from various people about the prevalence, not only of the grit, but also of the dust and of the general smoke; nevertheless, I do not understand how the school was relatively free from the grit for some considerable period prior to this summer, in view of the facts (a) that the Company admit that the grit comes from the new blast furnace; (b) this emission of grit is being experienced with other modern blast furnaces, and actually the matter is being studied at present by the various Ministries concerned. There does not, therefore, appear to be an immediate, or at least a permanent, solution of the problem, although the nuisance, even if it be intermittent because of the wind or other factors, is real enough to those who have to endure it.

(2) **The emission of dust from the tippler-crusher.**

When this plant began to work in 1952, conditions in Rawlinson and Westray Streets with certain winds were deplorable. The Company has done a considerable amount of work with the hope of diminishing the spread of dust. Iron ores vary considerably in their dustiness; Northamptonshire ore, of which 1000 tons is now used a week, is very dusty. I saw a truck of this ore tipped and I was most disappointed at the amount of dust which spread, notwithstanding all the work carried out by the Company to prevent that spread. Some small lessening of the spreading dust might be obtained by covering the exposed parts of the conveyor belt, and by some extension of the covering of the tippler, but with a South-west or West wind, particularly if gusty, and especially with a dusty ore, I believe that the dust will still spread to the adjacent streets.

I have no evidence that the coke tippler gives rise to any nuisance.

(3) **Smoke**

Smoke may be divided into two categories:

(a) The brown or dark yellow smoke, probably mostly manganese dioxide, with other substances such as iron oxides, is an intermittent discharge occurring at intervals by day and night. With the right wind, happily it goes out to sea; with the wrong wind, it hangs over Carlin How or disperses widely as a yellow cloud, obscuring the sun from those below. I have collected some of this substance in my garden at Brotton, since most of it appears insoluble in water.

(b) General smoke from shunting engines, chimneys, and other sources of combustion.

Metallurgical processes are exempt from the Public Health Act, 1936. Whether the present Bill gives more power, and to whom given, awaits the decision of Parliament.

Without accurate means of estimating the quantity and quality of the grit, dust and smoke emitted from the Works, all findings are subjective; they are no more than the impression made on a particular individual; for instance, I believe that the dust spreading from the crusher-tippler is less than formerly, but some one living near it may think differently and we can argue together indefinitely without any means of proof being available. There has been much propaganda about clean air during recent years; the public is becoming clean-air minded, and individual members of the public are apt to react vigorously when they do not get what they have been led to expect.

REPORT TO THE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1955.

I beg to state that during the year no vessel entered or left the Port of Skinningrove. I understand that no ship has used this port since 1914, and that the harbour is silted up. I have observed that the breakwater-quay is in a condition of disrepair.

